

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An external preparation for skin comprising ~~an inositol derivative in which a compound produced by reacting an inositol is combined~~ with a saccharide.
2. (original): The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the saccharide is a monosaccharide and/or an oligosaccharide.
3. (original): The external preparation for skin according to claim 2, wherein the monosaccharide and/or the oligosaccharide contains glucose as a constitutional unit.
4. (currently amended): The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the inositol ~~of the inositol derivative is~~ myo-inositol.
5. (currently amended): The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein ~~the compound produced by reacting an inositol derivative in which the inositol is combined with the~~ with a saccharide constitutes 0.01 to 50% by mass of the preparation.
6. (previously presented): A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin as described in claim 1.

7. (currently amended): The external preparation for skin according to claim 2, wherein the inositol ~~of the inositol derivative~~ is myo-inositol.

8. (currently amended): The external preparation for skin according to claim 3, wherein the inositol ~~of the inositol derivative~~ is myo-inositol.

9. (currently amended): The external preparation for skin according to claim 2, wherein the compound produced by reacting an inositol derivative in which the inositol is combined with the ~~with a~~ saccharide constitutes 0.01 to 50% by mass of the preparation.

10. (currently amended): The external preparation for skin according to claim 3, wherein the compound produced by reacting an inositol derivative in which the inositol is combined with the ~~with a~~ saccharide constitutes 0.01 to 50% by mass of the preparation.

11. (currently amended): The external preparation for skin according to claim 4, wherein the compound produced by reacting an inositol derivative in which the inositol is combined with the ~~with a~~ saccharide constitutes 0.01 to 50% by mass of the preparation.

12. (previously presented): A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin as described in claim 2.

13. (previously presented): A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin as described in claim 3.

14. (previously presented): A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin as described in claim 4.

15. (previously presented): A cosmetic comprising the external preparation for skin as described in claim 5.